

Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.

The Frank Turner Memorial cup.

Brentham Veterans v A combined Brentham 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

Team:-

Adrian Lovett

John Rodgers

Mark Langley-Sowter

Paul James

Dave Grose

Jon Rhodes

Eamonn Malone

Neil Graveney

Tony Georgiou

Mick Duffy

Dean Stewart

Subs:-

Mick Eames

Alan Hedley

On a glorious May Sunday morning, there was going to be the second major cup final of the weekend in London. The appetiser had seen Man Cit'eh beat Stoke the day before in the F.A. Cup final, and now the main event saw Brentham Veterans up against a combined Brentham 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in the Frank Turner Memorial cup final. Remarkably, the same two teams had reached the cup final for the fourth year running, ever since the inception of the cup competition. There were a few sore heads in the dressing room following the previous day's imbibing, in addition, the Veterans were down to the bare bones due to the various injuries recently sustained by the likes of Matthews, Rice, Livingstone, Hoban, Miley and Firmin, together with absences. Dave Grose had a chest infection, and Malone was suffering from Fostersitus. A quick foray into the transfer market had seen Dean Stewart brought in to bolster the squad, and he was set to make his debut in the cup final.

The Big Tosser lost the toss as the crowd began to swell as latecomers tried to squeeze into the Ealing ground and The Veterans kicked off attacking the bowling green end of the pitch. The Youngsters and (Jon McCarthy) had the majority of the early possession as expected, but The Veterans were defending stoutly with Paul James and Marky Mark solid at the back as they tried to subdue the sprightly Charlie who had a couple of half chances in the first 10 minutes, but his efforts were wide of the target. Adrian had also began the game well with a couple of good early saves and the poorly Dave Grose was having a heroic game. Dean was holding the ball well up front, and it was he who had Brentham's first real chance when he bore down on goal but his shot sailed over The Youngsters crossbar. Eamonn Malone was supporting the two Veterans strikers, leaving Neil Graveney to combat the youngsters in midfield, which he was doing admirably as the sweat rolled off him. John Rodgers was supporting Jon Rhodes on the right hand side of the pitch and John was tormenting the Youngsters left back with his pace. The Veterans were more than a match for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI for half an hour, unfortunately they fell behind in the 31<sup>st</sup> minute, just as The Veterans were looking to impose themselves in the game. 0-1. Within 5 minutes, The Veterans were level when Eamonn Malone wriggled his way into The Youngsters penalty area before squaring the ball to Tony Georgiou who levelled the scores from inside the 6 yard box. 1-1. Brentham Veterans forced several corners in the latter stages of the first half, but The Youngsters defended well. In the 44<sup>th</sup> minute, The

Veterans were rocked when they conceded a well worked goal by The Youngsters. John Capps blew the half-time whistle with Brentham Veterans counting themselves unlucky to be behind in the cup final.

Half time: Brentham Veterans 1-2 Brentham 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

Jon McCarthy had been replaced at half time with Elliott Cumberland, and he certainly took after his father as his pace was electric as he bombed down the right wing from his starting position at right back. Within 5 minutes of the restart, The Veterans were trailing 3-1 as The Youngsters began to cut through the Brentham defence, despite Mick Eames being brought on to provide cover in front of the defence. The rock hard surface of the pitch saw the ball bobbling around and the youngsters were quicker to the ball on the turn than the creaking veterans. 3-1 soon became 4-1 and the Youngsters were enjoying taking the pi\*\* out of the Veterans by playing the ball around and making the Veterans work, so much so, that Eamonn Malone had to leave the pitch to dry puke his guts up after a long session on the Fosters the day before. If he had stuck to the Guinness, he would have been fine.

The Youngsters attacked again and again, and their left back bombed into the Veterans penalty area, and as Adrian went down at the left back's feet, the youngster did a triple salko with pike twist and claimed a penalty as the remaining 21 players, substitutes and the crowd pi\*\*ed themselves laughing at the dive which should have earned the youngster a booking and an Academy award. Mr Capps quite rightly waived play on, however, he wasn't so lenient on the Veterans in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute when Adrian came out of his box to clear a loose ball, however, as usual the youngsters were first to the ball and Jamie Cuttica lifted the ball over Adrian, however, Mick Eames was more or less on the goal line (he had been getting out as fast as he could from a Youngsters attack 5 minutes previously) and Eamesey stopped the ball going into the net with his hand. A harsh decision seeing as Mick was quite rightly trying to protect himself from the ball hitting him on the head. Jamie converted the penalty despite Adrian's valiant effort to keep the ball out. 1-5.

The Veterans failed to give up and Jon Rhodes crossed into the Youngsters penalty area where the centre half attempted to head the ball back to the keeper, however the nippy Duffy nipped in to poke the ball into the youngsters

net to reduce the arrears albeit to three goals. The youngsters were now enjoying themselves and their goalkeeper decided to have a wander up front in the last couple of minutes, and he was in front of the ball when a midfield youngster let fly from 30 yards and the ball flew past Adrian and into the roof of the Veterans net for a cracking goal. 2-6. John Capps blew the final whistle to put an end to the Veterans misery, and thankfully the Veterans had made it through the game without picking up further injuries with the tour to Ireland looming, however, their pride had been hurt. Peter Roche, the Football section chairman presented the trophy to the winning Captain after he had updated everyone on the plans for the new changing rooms. As everybody shivered, he eventually asked Pauline, Frank's daughter to present the Frank Turner Memorial cup. Jamie even got a kiss from Pauline. But no tongues.

The two teams retired to the bar and sandwiches and more beer was consumed.

An excellent turn out from the football section, with special thanks to the Veterans who put their bodies on the line even though some of them are stuck together with plasters and tape, and let's not forget why the game was played in the first place – Frank Turner. A lovely gentleman who gave so much of his time to the club and followed the Brentham football teams ensuring all results and match reports were published each week. During the war he had escaped from a prisoner of war camp, and his life was lived to the full. It was a pleasure to have known him.

Frank Turner.

Final Score: Brentham Veterans 2-6 Brentham 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> XI

(Georgiou 1, Duffy 1)

Next game – AWAY – in Kerry, Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2011.